



Your College Navigator, LLC

Admissions by design, not chance!

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February 2017

11th – ACT and ACT plus Writing

Juniors – Begin your college search

Juniors – Map out dates and prepare for spring SAT and/or ACT exams

Seniors – Contact colleges to be sure your applications are complete. Send mid-year grades if required. Update colleges with any new information that might affect admission

March 2017

11th – SAT and SAT plus Writing

(register by 2/10 - late registration 2/21)

9th, 10th and 11th grade students - Make plans for a productive summer. Investigate summer programs, jobs, internships

11th grade students – Create an initial list of colleges.

Prepare for spring SAT/ACT exams.

Outstanding College Visits

Everyone is familiar with the standard information session and campus tour. Many are similar, and as a result, you learn little about the college that is of significance to you. A well-executed visit will not only provide the opportunity to obtain significant insight into each college, but provide an opportunity to advance your candidacy as well.

Competitive colleges make admissions decisions on how well they believe the student fits their academic, personality and social profiles, and ways in which the student can contribute to the college community. Your objectives in visiting a college should be to determine your fit and to identify specific areas in which you can contribute, and ways in which you will benefit. Use your visit to make quality contacts with college professors, curriculum advisors, admissions officers, and students.

Here are several ideas:

Prepare – know exactly what you want to accomplish, and set up your appointments before you arrive.

Go where students congregate - Engage with other students to learn what they like about the college, what they would like to see improved, and how easy is to make friends. Eat at the cafeteria or the student center.

Social activity - learn what drives the social activity at the college. (e.g. Greek life, sporting events, intramural sports, dorm life, etc.).

Audit an introductory course in a subject of interest to you. Determine if the subject matter, teaching style, student participation and use of technology appeals to you.

Meet with a professor in a subject of interest and learn how the teaching in this subject differs from the teaching of the subject at other colleges.

Experiential learning - What research, internship and professor interaction opportunities are there, and how does one get involved in each of these areas?

Sports/performing arts – if these areas are of importance, meet with the appropriate coach or director. Determine the opportunities for you to participate.

Clubs/activities – meet with a student in 2 clubs/activities and determine what about these clubs make them interesting and the role you can play.

Core curriculum - learn of the courses required of all students. Do these courses appeal to you?

Specific major - If you know your major, learn about the specific courses and other requirements that are necessary to graduate. Does this approach appeal to you?

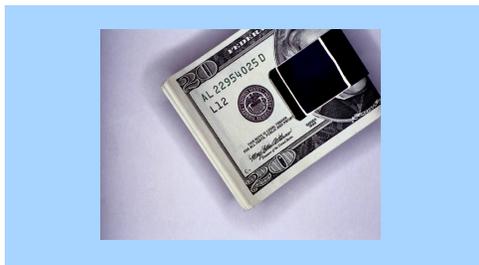
Undecided major - If you are unsure of your major, learn the details of the college's program for undeclared students.

Teaching style – Does the college's teaching style (e.g. lecture/note taking, class discussion, student presentations, collaboration with others, laboratory, research, etc.), match the way you learn best?

Academic intensity - learn of the academic intensity at the college and how competitive the students are.

Leverage what you have learned in your application and interviews. You may also have developed an advocate - someone who can provide support for your candidacy.

Financial Matters: Low-Cost Ideas for Summer Adventures



Money may be tight, but it's not necessary to give up on finding a cost-effective way to spend a productive summer. Free and low cost summer enrichment programs are out there—you just need to look a bit harder to find them, or think outside the box about what makes a productive summer.

Begin by considering your interests. Our nation's need for engineers and scientists has led to the creation of numerous free and/or low cost programs in these areas. The Research Science Institute at MIT, the MITE program at the University of Texas, the ASM Mate-

rials Camp held at numerous universities, the Bridge Program in Biomedical Sciences at Sewanee, and the Summer Institute for Mathematics at the University of Washington are all provided free of charge or at low cost to qualified students. Interested in the environment? Check out the American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations or the Student Conservation Association programs. Students with interests in the humanities and social sciences might look to the Carleton Liberal Arts Experience for a low-cost enrichment program. Telluride offers free residential programs for students with outstanding qualifications, while individual states often sponsor Governor's programs or honors institutes. Dual enrollment classes taken at a nearby community college are often provided free to high school students.

Many hospitals have outreach programs designed to interest students in the health sciences—check with your local institution for opportunities. Some state attorney's offices allow student interns to shadow their lawyers. Contact your city government—some departments even offer paid internships to high school students.

Look, too, to local businesses. Aspiring veterinarians can volunteer at their local vet's office or work at an animal shelter or rescue organization. Budding artists might help out at an art school program, while future scientists can volunteer to work as research assistants for professors. Use your imagination and work your (or your parents') network of contacts.

For more ideas, check out www.blayz.com or www.teenlife.com.

The Five "Ps" of Choosing Colleges

With over 3,500 colleges and universities in the U.S., deciding where to apply – and ultimately which college to attend – can seem overwhelming, especially as you begin your college search. The task can be less daunting if your family agrees on a game plan for sorting out the options. The first step? Deciding what your priorities are for your college search.

For most students and their families, college search priorities boil down to one or more of the "five P's": Place, Program, Prestige, Price, and Personal. Let's take a look at some of the questions you and your parents might ask yourselves in order to weigh the importance of each "P." As you read through these questions, jot down any answers that seem particularly

relevant to you.

Place: Are you dreaming about attending college in a big city? Is staying close to home important? Is a particular part of the country calling you? Do you prefer warm weather most of the year or want to experience all four seasons?

Program: Do you already have a specific college major or career in mind? Are you hoping for strong advising to help you figure out your interests? Do you prefer a school with more flexible general education requirements or a more structured curriculum? Is studying abroad or access to internships critical? Do you need support programs for a learning disability?

Prestige: Are "bragging rights" about

the college you attend important to you? Will you only consider schools that rank high on published surveys?

Price: What is a realistic annual budget for your family for college expenses? Are you hoping for scholarships? Are you willing to take on additional student and parent loans for a more expensive college?

Personal: Are you hoping to participate in certain extracurricular activities – such as athletics, music, or Greek life – during college? Would you prefer to attend a religiously-affiliated college? Do you want a school where students tend to be more liberal or more conservative, or perhaps a mix? Are there other characteristics you hope your future

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Check out our website for
upcoming seminars

The Five “P’s” of Choosing Colleges *(continued)*

student peers share? Do you have preferences about the types of on-campus housing available? Do you have other personal needs or desires that must be met for your college experience to be successful?



Reed College

Once you’ve answered the above questions, you’ll likely find that certain of the “P’s” are more important to you than others. Write each “P” on an index card and then put the cards in order of their im-

portance to you. If one or more is not critical to you, drop those items from your list of search criteria; while they may end up being items that are nice to have in a college, they’re not ones you need to worry about during your college hunt.

Don’t be surprised if your priorities change as you begin to research, visit, and apply to colleges; changing your mind is part of the college search process. As your list begins to take shape, revisit the 5 P’s to evaluate how each college fits your current priorities.

The “5 P’s” can also be a useful starting point for family discussions about college. Students and parents can work through the list of questions individually and create their own ranking of the importance of each “P.” Then, meet with your counselor to discuss how and why you’ve prioritized the five categories. Often, you’ll discover ideas for your college search that you or your parents hadn’t considered before.